

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace at **page 3**,

the paragraphs between line 4 and line 24, which start with "With particular reference to...",

with the following amended paragraphs:

--With particular reference to the cited figures, the reference numeral 1 generally designates an apparatus for making a fracture cut between the cup and the ~~sealing~~ safety ring in plastic caps 2 according to the invention.--

The apparatus, of the type suitable to make a fracture cut between the cup 3 and the ~~sealing~~ safety ring 4 in caps 2 to be applied so as to close containers (the cup 3 being preferably provided with internal retention elements 5 for engagement on a collar provided on the respective container), comprises a footing 6, which protrudes upward with a substantially vertical frame 7 that is constituted by parallel uprights 8 that support a beam 9 (see Figure 1).

--The footing 6 rotatably supports a rotary carousel 10, which has a vertical axis and is preset to convey continuously the caps 2 between input and output conveyance means, not shown in the figures. The footing 6 furthermore supports rotary means 11, which are provided with a plurality of mandrels 12 that have a vertical axis; each mandrel can be arranged inside a respective cup 3 and is suitable to roll, about ~~its own~~ the axis of symmetry S of the cap 2, the side wall 13 of said cups 3 along the cutting edge 14 of a blade 15, as shown in Figure 4, for making the circumferential fracture cut on said side wall 13. For this purpose, the blade 15 is associated with an inlet path portion 16 for the cups 3, which is adjacent thereto and is suitable to axially offset each cup 3 with respect to the rotation axis R of the respective mandrel 12, so as to clamp the side wall 13 between said cutting edge 14 and the mandrel 12.--

Please replace at **page 4**,

the paragraph between line 2 and line 16 which starts with "The carousel 10 comprises...",

with the following amended paragraph:

-- The carousel 10 comprises (Figure 2) a first drum 23, which is provided internally with an axial through cavity 24 and is connected in a downward region to a flanged shaft 25 that is connected to the output shaft 22 of the gearmotor 19 and is affected by multiple peripheral through holes 26 that have a vertical axis and are angularly equidistant for the sliding insertion of respective pillars 27 provided at their upper ends with seats for conveying the caps 2; the seats are preferably constituted by disk-like plates 28, which extend downward with respective stems 29 supported by thrust bearings 30 mounted within respective receptacles 31 provided in the pillars 27. The pillars 27 can be actuated so as to rise from a lower position to an upper position and have respective rollers 32 fixed to their respective lower ends, said rollers being engaged within an annular cam 33 that is coaxial to the ~~extension~~ shaft 25 and monolithic with the footing 6. Multiple lateral through slots 33a are further provided on the first drum 23 and are mutually angularly equidistant.--

Please replace at **page 5**,

the paragraphs between line 6 and line 23, which start with "The recentering means 17 comprise..."

with the following amended paragraphs:

-- The recentering means 17 comprise multiple pushers 68, each of which acts on the side wall 13 of the respective cup 3 in a direction that is substantially radial and centrifugal with respect to the axis of the carousel 10 ~~[[:]]~~ . ~~the~~ The pushers 68 can be actuated by way of respective cam means 69.

Each one of the pushers 68 is preferably substantially quadrangular, with a slightly convex surface 70 for contact with the respective cup 3 (Figure 3); the pusher 68 is connected to an arm 71 that continues with a stem 72 that can slide, in a substantially radial direction with respect to the carousel 10, within a respective guiding block 73, which is inserted in a respective slot 33a. A wheel 74 provided with a vertical axis ~~[[74]]~~ is supported so that it can rotate at right angles at the free end of each stem 72; the cam means 69 are constituted by a flat track 75, which is closed in a loop and is provided in the lower face of a bush 76 that is fixed coaxially to the carousel 10 along the column 40. The track 75 is suitable for the rolling of the wheels 74 having a vertical

axis, causing the radial translational motion of the respective pushers 68 in order to move each cup 3 centrifugally, moving the axis of symmetry S of said cup 3 so that it coincides with the rotation axis R of the respective mandrel [[13]] 12.--

Please replace at **page 7**,

the paragraph between line 1 and line 6 which starts with " means 82 (for example...", with the following amended paragraph:

--means 82 (for example of the clamp type): the cutting edge 14 has a profile that is shaped substantially like a circular arc that is concentric with respect to the rotational path T of each cup 3 on the carousel 10. The inlet portion 16 is formed on the plate 80 and the complementary plate 81 and is shaped so as to provide an axial offset of the cup 3 in its rolling motion with respect to the rotation axis R of the respective mandrel [[13]] 12.--